

# News Release

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**Woodruff Electric  
Cooperative Corporation**

**DATE: December 15, 2020**

## **Woodruff Electric Urges You to Keep Your Pets Safe this Winter**

For pet owners, when nights get colder they tend to let their playful dogs and curious cats come indoors away from the cold weather. Pet owners take on the responsibility of keeping their pet's safe whether indoors or outdoors. You can help keep your furry friend safe by learning about and taking action on potential electrical hazards in your home.

Electrical cords can easily become an object of play for pets, but when sharp teeth clamp down on the cord and break through the rubber coat and expose the wire, this can shock your pet and become a fire hazard in your home.

Here are some tips to prevent cords from becoming a chew toy:

- Wind up excess cords and hide them from view or place cords out of pet's reach.
- Coat cords with a bitter substance to make them undesirable to pets. Appropriate and safe products can be purchased online or at pet stores.
- Reprimand pets for playing with electrical cords. Pets need to learn these are not toys.
- Be sure to continuously check cords for fraying or bite marks and replace them accordingly.

Provide your pet with new and different chew toys to keep them entertained so electrical cords do not become a dangerous replacement. Make sure plugs are completely plugged into outlets. Partially exposed prongs are a hazard for curious pets. Remember to unplug all appliances and electronics not in use to cut electric current.

Discourage pets from sleeping near or behind electronics or appliances. Many pets are attracted to the warmth, but this is a potential fire hazard. Pets need to be kept away from all electrical connections.

All outlets near sinks or bathtubs should be equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Playful pets can knock radios, curling irons, and other electrical devices into water, creating a dangerous situation. GFCIs stop the flow of electricity instantly if there is a problem and can save lives.

For those with fish, be sure cords attached to an aquarium have a drip loop—cords that slack below the outlet—to make sure water does not run into the outlet.

If a pet should receive a shock, never touch the animal until you know it is away from the power source or the electric current is shut off in order to prevent injury to yourself. Once it is clear to approach the pet, give it medical treatment immediately.

Woodruff Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Forrest City, is a member-owned electric utility. Woodruff Electric serves electric power to more than 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, and Phillips counties in eastern Arkansas. The District offices are located in Augusta, Moro and Barton.

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